

## THE INDEPENDENT

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EVERY AFTERNOON

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MONDAY, FEB. 5, 1900.

### TOPICS OF THE DAY.

It would be interesting to learn when our Coolie administration intend definitely to suspend Japanese immigration, and to commence importing Portoriquenos in accordance with the advice of the American Governor. The day may come when we shall regret this over-flooding the country with Japanese.

We wonder whether President Dole will extend an invitation to President McKinley and Admiral Dewey to visit their recently acquired American possession of Hawaii during their visit to California. Would the constitutional prohibition of the President leaving the country during his term of office apply in this case?

There is probably some firm foundation for the statement that Great Britain is willing to abrogate the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty of 1850, in exchange for concessions in connection with the Alaska boundary question, and the favorable arrangement of one or two other little matters in amicable dispute between the two great English speaking nations.

For some reason, not quite clear to the average reader, the Board of Health under Dr. Wood's immediate direction is called the "national" board. If this is the fact why has the Island of Molokai, particularly near Kaunakakai and Kamalo, not been cared for. We have from most reliable persons the statement that in the six months last past over sixty deaths have occurred near the settlement named.

Have the Boers engaged a fenian privateer to attack impregnable Esquimaux? The Coast papers claim that there was recently a terrible scare there after the receipt of a cypher telegram from H. B. M.'s Consul at San Francisco, and the torpedo boat destroyer Virago was rushed off to sea. Well, lightning does strike in unexpected places as Judge Hartwell and General W. O. Smith have discovered in Washington.

When we read in the San Francisco papers of the terrible condition of affairs in that city with the Chinese tongs and highbinders, of the frequent assassinations and riotous proceedings, we may well rejoice that our Chinamen are of a more peaceable and law abiding class. Viewing the situation from this standpoint we should be grateful enough to show them more consideration than we have recently been doing.

The so-called national Board of Health sent a physician to Kaunakakai to investigate and he reports that a fever, not the plague, prevails on the island. The physician could have told of the fearful mortality had he taken the pains to make inquiry; but as the sickness was not plague no measures of relief have been devised for the stricken communities of Chinese and Japanese on the American and Kamalo sugar estates. Little wonder that the people of Hilo thought it better to care for their own health.

After reading the following excerpt we wonder what Aguinaldo really does want outside of a well lined purse.

One of Aguinaldo's confidential advisers states positively that there would be peace within a week were it not for the Filipinos' notion that Congress will especially declare for Philippine independence, with an American protectorate, or recognize the Filipinos under Territorial government with the promise that the archipelago shall be come a State in the Union.

Dr. Conan Doyle, who has gone to the seat of war to write another story "in Scarlet," is about right in regard to Oom Paul. He says the British people should be grateful to him, and entomb him under a monument as large and grand as St. Paul's, which should bear the inscription, "Here lies the man who federated the British Empire." As the doctor says many have tried to do this and have failed, but President Krueger has succeeded. Score one for Shylock Holmes.

In the capture of Osman Digna, the British have under control one of their bravest and bitterest enemies. Osman Digna's name is George Nisbet. He is a Frenchman by birth and descent and was born on the banks of the Seine in 1836. His mother, after becoming a widow, married an Egyptian merchant and slave dealer who adopted George, and on his death left him his large fortune. Osman received a thorough military education at Cairo under British, German and French officers.

Two thousand Deweys are to banquet the Admiral in Carnegie Hall, New York, after a four days convention, and a pilgrimage to Westfield, Mass., the ancestral home of the family. The Deweys trace their descent from Sir Simeon Dewey of Stow Hall (1204) and the family motto seems prophetic: *Corona Veniet delecta*. "A crown will come to the deserving." Admiral George Dewey must be as modest as he is manly to escape a swelled head with all the adulation and adoration he is receiving.

The Board of Health reports that a Chinese infant taken from one of the three cottages standing on the seashore of the extension of Kukui street a week or more ago, just before the cottages were burned, has succumbed to the plague. Of course no one can contradict this statement. However, if this death is put forward as a justification for burning these cottages a thinking person can only feel sorry that a better reason is not forthcoming. Surely if a case of plague develops in a person seven or eight days after being removed from an uninfected cottage, there is certainly room for doubt as to when and where such a person became infected. If it was a proper precaution to burn the cottage immediately after removing the person, seven days before the plague developed, why, following the same reasoning, should not other cottages just across the street have been burned. Why burn the three cottages, from only one of which has been taken, in perfect health, a person who dies eight days after of plague? If the Board of Health acted consistently our whole city would soon be as Chinatown is. The burning of the three cottages may be best explained by calling attention to a remark made by a person very near to Mr. Dole, who said: "The persons in charge of the city just now intend to lay out a new district from Kukui street to the harbor." The intention may be a good one; but why not give it as a reason for the destruction of buildings, rather than give the impression to persons in that neighborhood that infection is lurking near them.

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